BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Infoline

Contact bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 12-51* *December 21st, 2012*

- **British Columbia's population climbs to 4,638,825 as of October 1**
- **The year-over-year inflation rate scales back to 0.1% in November**
- **The number of regular E.I. beneficiaries in B.C. drops 1.4% in October**

Population

- **British Columbia's population grew by 0.35% between July 1st and October 1st, rising to 4,638,825.** During the third quarter of 2012, B.C. gained a total of 12,356 persons as a result of net migration from all sources. B.C. had a net outflow of about 2,750 people to other parts of Canada, but acquired over 15,000 from other parts of the world.

  Net international migration in the third quarter of 2012 accounted for most of the province's population growth. B.C.'s net international migration was 15,104 over this period, down slightly from 15,689 in the same quarter of 2011. Between July 1st and October 1st, B.C. welcomed more than 9,000 immigrants and almost as many non-permanent residents. Of these, about a third were admitted as skilled workers, and another quarter under the theme of family re-unification. Asian countries remained the leading sources of immigrants to B.C., with China and India providing the largest shares. Overall, most immigrants were destined for the Vancouver area, with the remainder landing in other parts of the province.

  The Canadian population expanded 0.35% in the third quarter, reaching 35,002,447. Among the provinces, B.C.'s gain trailed only that seen by Alberta (+0.85%), and Saskatchewan (+0.61%). Yukon Territory (+0.70%) and Nunavut (+0.98%) were the only other regions to experience growth that exceeded the national average. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of married (*and not separated*) people living in British Columbia in July rose 1.5% over the same month last year, to 1.9 million.** There was a 1.0% increase in the number of common law relationships, to 315,880, primarily due to more 30 to 34 year olds (+2.7%) engaging in the practice, as well as 20 to 24 year olds (+1.5%), and 50 to 59 year olds (+2.5%). The number of divorced individuals was 1.6% higher overall, with the most dramatic rise amongst 65 to 69 year olds (+8.1%), while there were slight declines in cohorts aged 35 to 39 (-0.3%), 40 to 44 (-0.4%), and 45 to 49 (-2.1%) years old.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Prices

- **British Columbia's year-over-year inflation rate stood at 0.1% in November, the lowest rate recorded since November 2009.** The cost of energy products (-2.1%) fell, such that excluding energy, the overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) would have been higher (+0.3%). Prices for electricity (+5.7%) and water (+5.4%) rose, while fuel oil (-6.2%) and natural gas (-4.0%) tumbled. Consequently, the cost of shelter was slightly less than in the same month last year (-0.3%). Rental accommodation prices (+1.7%) continued to climb, while the price of owned accommodation (-1.4%) fell for the fourteenth straight month. The cost of maintaining (+4.8%) and insuring (+2.0%) a home took bigger chunks out of the household budget, although homeowners didn't pay as much furnishing (-1.0%) their home. Drivers paid substantially less at the pump (-4.7%) in November pushing the cost of operating a vehicle down (-0.7%) for the

Report — No report this issue

Did you know...

The majority (62%) of British Columbians think it is acceptable to regift, and 45% say they have regifted things they have received from other people. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

first time since October 2009. Overall transportation costs were 0.9% lower, and prices for purchasing a vehicle (-2.0%) were also down. Public transportation, however, remained higher (+1.3%) than in the same month of 2011.

The cost of food rose 1.5% in November, as both grocery bills (+1.3%) and restaurant meals (+2.0%) were pricier. A hike in the price of meat (+3.4%) and fish and seafood (+4.8%) products was largely behind the increase. Prices for health & personal care (+0.1%) were slightly higher than in November last year. However, British Columbians did enjoy lower prices for clothing & footwear (-0.4%) and recreational equipment & services (-3.2%).

The inflation rate in Vancouver (+0.2%) was slightly higher than the provincial average, while prices in Victoria (-0.2%) were lower than in the same month of 2011.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The Canadian inflation rate was 0.8% in November, the smallest year-over-year increase recorded since October 2009.** Although still higher than in the same month of last year, consumer price increases slowed in all provinces except Alberta, primarily due to falling gasoline and clothing & footwear prices. Prince Edward Island (+1.5%) and Quebec (+1.5%) recorded the highest rates in the country, while residents of British Columbia (+0.1%) enjoyed the mildest expansion, followed by New Brunswick (+0.6%) and Alberta (+0.6%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **The number of British Columbians receiving regular employment insurance (EI) benefits dropped 1.4% (*seasonally adjusted*) to 55,790 between September and October, bucking the national trend.** Nationally, the number of EI beneficiaries was up 0.9%, to 535,030. B.C., Saskatchewan and parts of Atlantic Canada were the only regions to post declines. The number of Canadians receiving EI benefits was 2.1% lower than in October of 2011. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Sales by retailers in the province inched up for the second month in October (+0.2%, *seasonally adjusted*).** Sales were up in five provinces, most notably in Quebec (+1.8%). Canadian sales were 0.7% higher, leveraged partly by boosts at gas stations (+1.6%), motor vehicles & parts dealers (+1.6%) and food & beverage stores (+0.5%). However, declining sales by retailers of furniture & home furnishings (-2.0%) and electronics & appliances (-1.6%) tempered these increases.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Wholesale sales in B.C. were up in October, climbing 1.8% (*seasonally adjusted*), subsequent to a slight decline (-0.9%) in July.** Canadian sales were also stronger (+0.9%), with most provinces posting increases. Only wholesalers in Ontario (-0.4%) and Manitoba (-1.8%) saw sales weaken.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Nation

- **Canada's real gross domestic product (GDP) edged up (+0.1%, *seasonally adjusted, in 2002 dollars*) in October, following no growth in September (-0.0%).** Weakness in the goods-producing sector (+0.0%), mainly in manufacturing (-0.4%) and construction (-0.1%), offset growth in finance, insurance, real estate & leasing (+0.2%), and retail (+0.3%) and wholesale (+0.8%) trade. Gross domestic product in the country's utilities (+1.2%) and mining, oil & gas extraction (+0.3%) sectors was also up.

Data Source: SC Cat. no. 15-001-X

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at BC Stats! Infoline will take a break for the holidays, and will resume on January 4th, 2013.

***Infoline* Issue: 12-51**
December 21st, 2012

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline

December 21, 2012
Issue 12-51

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at **www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca** or choose RSS

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,638.8	0.9
Canada	35,002.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Oct 2012	3,241	1.8
Merchandise Exports - Oct 2012	2,727	2.1
Retail Sales - Oct 2012	5,097	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Nov 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.1	1.2
Vancouver	0.2	1.4
Victoria	-0.2	1.1
Canada	0.8	1.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Nov 2012	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-4.7	
Labour Force - BC	2,480.2	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,312.7	-0.2
Unemployed - BC	167.5	0.1
		Oct 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.8	6.7
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Dec 19/2012	Dec 21/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.29
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Dec 19/2012	Dec 21/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9868	1.0286
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0120	0.9748
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Nov 2012	% change on one year ago
BC	859.57	1.4
Canada	874.04	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

2012 DACSO Data Released

Data from the 2012 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey have been released and are available through the Student Outcomes Reporting System (SORS). See more:
http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/default/Home.aspx

Small Business Profile, 2011

The 2012 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on BC's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/BusinessIndustry/SmallBusiness.aspx

Open Data, 2011 Census, Language Data

The fourth and final data release from the 2011 Census. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Open Data, Census Area Profiles NEW – 2001 files added

Here's where you can get at the datasets for all areas, large and small. We'll be adding more as 2011 Census data are released, as well as additional historical tables – so keep coming back! See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- Population Highlights, Third Quarter, 2012
- Consumer Price Index, November 2012

Released next week

- Business Indicators, December 2012

BC Stats, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: 250-387-0327 Fax: 250-387-0380 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca